

Specification Amendments

Replace the paragraph between page 13, line 6 and page 7, line 3 with the following:

Referring now to the figures of the drawing in detail and first, particularly, to Fig. 1 thereof, there is shown the basic construction of an external drum exposer. An exposure drum 1 is mounted such that it can rotate and can be set into a uniform rotational movement in the direction of the rotation arrow 2 by a non-illustrated rotational drive. Clamped onto the exposure drum 1 is for example an unexposed, rectangular printing plate 3, which has a leading edge 4, a left-hand side edge 5, a right-hand side edge 6 and a trailing edge 7. The printing plate 3 is clamped on in such a way that its leading edge 4 touches contact pins 8 which are firmly connected to the exposure drum 1 and project beyond the surface of the exposure drum 1. A clamping strip 9 presses the leading edge 4 firmly on to the surface of the exposure drum 1 as well and, as a result, fixes the leading edge 4 of the printing plate 3. The printing plate 3 is held flat on the drum surface by a ~~non-illustrated~~ vacuum device 64, which attracts the printing plate 3 by suction through suction grooves in the drum surface, in order that the printing plate 3 is not detached by

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centrifugal forces during the rotation. Additionally, the trailing edge 7 of the printing plate 3 is fixed by clamping pieces 10.--

Replace the paragraph between page 16, line 14 and page 17, line 5 with the following:

-- Fig. 4 shows a partial view of the end of the exposure drum 1. The suction ducts 22, which are not visible in Fig. 4, are sealed off by a valve block 40, in which, for each suction duct 22, a valve 41 is provided, with which the corresponding suction duct 22 can be connected to the vacuum pump or isolated from the vacuum pump. The valve block 40 is connected via a hose 43 to a vacuum chamber 44 in the center of the exposure drum 1, and the vacuum chamber 44 is connected to the ~~non-illustrated~~ vacuum pump 64, which is located outside the exposure drum 1 and, for example, is connected to the vacuum chamber 44 via a rotary lead-through. Through the hose 43, air is extracted in the direction of arrow 45 out of the valve block 40 and therefore out of the suction ducts 22 which have been opened by the valves 41. Piston rods that can be displaced in the valves 41 project out of the valve block 40, so that they can be actuated by being pushed selectively into the valve block 40 by a non-illustrated mechanical actuator. Also provided in the valve block is a compressed-

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air opening 42, via which all the valves 41 can be forced out
of the valve block 40 again by a compressed-air surge.--